

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-6. (canceled)

1 7. (currently amended) An apparatus for shrinking a
2 foil wrapped about a stack of objects and having an end portion
3 projecting vertically past an end of the stack, the apparatus
4 comprising:

5 a frame extending vertically adjacent the stack;
6 means including a heater vertically displaceable on the
7 frame and directed inwardly at the wrapped stack for shrinking the
8 foil thereabout;

9 a nozzle spaced vertically from the stack end, centered
10 vertically on the stack, and having an annular array of outlets
11 inside the projecting end portion of the foil and directed gener-
12 ally vertically and outwardly at an acute angle to the end of the
13 stack; and

14 means for supplying a gas under pressure to the nozzle
15 for directing respective jets of the gas from the openings outlets
16 at the projecting end portion of the foil extending past the end
17 for inflating and erecting the projecting end portion of the foil
18 extending past the end.

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1 8. (currently amended) The foil-shrinking apparatus
2 defined in claim 7 wherein the nozzle has an annular face extending
3 at an acute angle to the end face and formed with the outlets.

1 9. (previously presented) The foil-shrinking apparatus
2 defined in claim 8 wherein the face and outlets extend at an angle
3 of about 45° to a vertical centerline of the stack.

1 10. (previously presented) The foil-shrinking apparatus
2 defined in claim 7, further comprising
3 means for vertically moving the nozzle toward and away
4 from the stack.

1 11. (currently amended) The foil-shrinking apparatus
2 defined in claim 7 wherein the end is the upper end and the stack
3 has a lower end past which the foil also extends, the apparatus
4 further comprising:

5 a second such nozzle connected to the gas-supply means
6 and directed at the lower end for inflating and erecting the
7 projecting end portion of the foil extending therewith.

1 12. (previously presented) The foil-shrinking apparatus
2 defined in claim 7, further comprising:
3 means for pressing the foil against the stack as the foil
4 is shrunk around the stack.

1 13. (previously presented) The foil-shrinking apparatus
2 defined in claim 12, further comprising
3 means including a lift table for raising the pressing
4 means.

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